

## North Carolina Students Perform Well at National History Day Competition



RALEIGH -- A Breakfast on the Hill, a Writer's Workshop at the Library of Congress and an invitation to exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum are among honors accorded to students from North Carolina during the National History Day Competition at the University of Maryland-College Park, June 15-19.

"Once again, North Carolina students are proving themselves on a national stage," Governor Pat McCrory said. "Their hard work and study of our nation's history reflects a deep respect and appreciation for civic engagement. I hope their achievements inspire others to look into studying history as well as the wealth of archives and other resources available through the Department of Cultural Resources." More than 60 North Carolina students were among the nearly 3,000 from around the country and the world in attendance.

In addition to the special invitations, several students placed in the top 14 in their categories on this year's theme, *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. More than half a million students nationwide participate in National History Day competitions from the local to national level.

"I am so impressed with our students and teachers in North Carolina who represent our state so well at national competitions," said Susan Kluttz, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. "A love of history inspires students to dig deeper into a story to understand more fully all of the aspects of why and how something happened as it did. I could not be prouder of everyone who participated in National History Day."

North Carolina winners:

### West

*Margaret and James Dillon, Hendersonville High School, Hendersonville.* Senior Group Performance, eighth place for "Censorship: How the Freedom of Speech is a Thrilling Right and a Controversial Responsibility." Also received medal as North Carolina's Outstanding State Entry for high schools. Lisa Dillon, teacher.

*Quinn Schneider and Jake Johnson, Woodlawn School, Mooresville.* Senior Group Documentary, twelfth place for "Rosenwald Schools: Helping Communities Take Responsibility When Educational Rights Did Not Exist." Beth Robinson, teacher.

## **East**

*Emma Bass and Jessica Ruiz, Wayne School of Engineering Middle School, Goldsboro.* Junior Group Website, twelfth place for "Child Labor During the Industrial Revolution and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938." Also won medal as North Carolina's Outstanding State Entry for middle schools. Jesse Pittard, teacher.

## **Honors**

*Amanda Biddix, Harris Middle School, Spruce Pine.* Invited to the National Endowment for the Humanities' Breakfast on the Hill which recognizes students for their excellence in representing their state's history, and was one of 20 students to have breakfast at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Her junior documentary was "Sam Erwin: Defender of the Constitution." Students spoke with home state representatives and senators, and Biddix met 11<sup>th</sup> District congressman Mark Meadows. Chris Hollifield, teacher.

*Noelle Stroud, Christ Covenant School, Winterville.* Invited to a Paper Writer's Workshop at the Library of Congress, one of 19 high school students invited. Her paper was "Henrietta Lacks: The Unwitting Heroine of Modern Medicine." Allen Guidry, teacher.

*Caroline Kraczon, J.H. Rose High School, Greenville.* Exhibit selected for display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Behring Center, for the exhibit "Filibuster, Gerrymandering and Pork Barrel Projects: A Politician's Tools for Partisan Gain." One exhibit was selected from each state. Stephanie Noles, teacher.

## **Teacher Awards**

Each year the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award is presented to a junior high and a high school teacher from each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Schools, International Schools-Asia and the U.S. territories. Behring Award winners were recognized at the award ceremony, including two from North Carolina:

Lisa Dillon, Classical Scholars, Hendersonville. High School Winner, Patricia Behring Award for North Carolina

Kimberly Jamison, Swain County Middle School, Bryson City. Middle School Winner, Patricia Behring Award for North Carolina

Recent high school graduate Margaret Dillon has participated in National History Day in North Carolina since middle school. "National History Day has been the highlight of my summer since seventh grade. Now heading off to college I intend to pursue a career in history with a program or as a teacher. History Day has affected who whole life and I couldn't be happier!"

Amada Biddix still savors memories of her Breakfast on the Hill, and observes, "Getting to go to Nationals was a dream come true. There were so many students from other states and it was amazing to think that they all had the same interest as me: history. History Day has helped me realize a possibility of a future career in history."

For more information, please call (919) 807-7389 or visit [www.nchistoryday.org](http://www.nchistoryday.org). National History Day in North Carolina is sponsored with major support from the North Caroliniana Society, the N.C. Society of Cincinnati, Sons of the Revolution of the State of North Carolina, and the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, and is administered by the Office of Archives and History within the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

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